

Henry Tallman House
982 High Street, west side
between North and York Streets
Bath
Sagadahoc County
Maine

HABS No. ME-152

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ME
12-BATH
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HENRY TALLMAN HOUSE

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Location: 982 High Street, west side of street, Bath,
Sagadahoc County, Maine

Present Owner
and Occupant: Anna Trott Tubbs

Present Use: Private residence

Statement of
Significance: This wood and frame, rectangular, transitional
Federal-Greek Revival residence was built for Henry
Tallman, a prominent Bath lawyer and public office-
holder. It has a balustraded colonnade on two sides,
a roof balustrade, and a balustraded cupola. An ell
may be the remains of an earlier Federal-period
house on the site.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1840. Present owner believes that
main house was built in 1840 and that ell was built in
1828 as part of an earlier structure on the premises.
2. Architect: Unknown. Several elements of this house are
similar to the George F. Patten House, c. 1830, and the
Sewall Mansion of the Bath Marine Museum, 1844, both in
Bath.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an in-
complete chain of title. Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds.

1857 Deed. July 16, 1857, recorded August 22, 1857 in
Book 10 page 308
Henry Tallman
to
Henry L. Richardson

1861 Deed. January 1, 1861, recorded June 9, 1862 in
Book 21 page 190
Henry L. Richardson
to
Frances M. Richardson

1864 Deed. June 28, 1864, recorded September 14, 1864 in
Book 25 page 209
Frances M. Richardson
to
Henry L. Richardson

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1864 Deed. July 1, 1864, recorded September 14, 1864 in
Book 25 page 240
Henry L. Richardson
to
William F. Moses

1917 Deed. March 14, 1917, recorded March 15, 1917 in
Book 135 page 256
Elizabeth R. Moses (heir of William F. Moses)
to
Annie H. Trott

1945 Devise. Recorded December 10, 1945 in
Book 236 page 562
Annie H. Trott
to
Raymond H. Trott, Helen H. Trott, and Anna M. Trott

4. Builder: Unknown. Built for Henry Tallman.

5. Alterations and additions: A few minor later interior alterations.

B. Supplemental Material:

Henry Tallman (1806-1885) was a prominent resident of Bath. He served as Lincoln County Attorney and was a member of the Maine senate. A lawyer, he was the Attorney General of Maine from 1849-52. From 1869 to 1885 he was a Municipal Court Judge in Bath.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photograph in the collection of Anna Trott Tubbs.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources: Deeds. Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds, 752 High Street, Bath, Maine 04530.

b. Secondary and published sources: Emery, William M. Honorable Peleg Tallman 1764-1841 His Ancestors and Descendants. Boston, 1935, pp. 86-107.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This massive, two-story transitional Federal-Greek Revival house is elaborately detailed. A one-story colonnade rings the house on two sides. The colonnade, the roof, and a square central cupola have wooden balustrades.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The house is about 35 feet wide and 27 feet deep. The colonnade porch extends about eight feet out from the house.
2. Foundations: Granite.
3. Wall construction: Wood with wooden trim. Painted.
4. Trim and finish: Wood, painted. The Tallman House has a five-bay facade. On the first floor a center doorway is flanked on either side by two tall windows, each of which has molded trim with circle-motif corner blocks at the upper corners. Fluted pilasters flank the doorway. There are fluted corner pilasters. On the second floor is a tall center window with sidelights, defined by four fluted pilasters. To either side are two windows with molded trim and shutters. There are fluted corner pilasters.

Extending from the facade is a one-story colonnade which continues along the southern side of the house as well, wrapping around the northeastern and southwestern corners. Fluted Doric columns standing on a wooden floor support a wide entablature and flat cornice surmounted by a balustrade. The balustrade consists of panels of geometrical wooden lattice work between square balusters with recessed panels, located directly over the columns, and a molded rail. The first-floor wall surface behind the colonnade is finished with matched boards; the second-floor wall surface is clapboarded.

On the south side of the house there are three tall windows identical to those on the facade on the first floor, and three windows with molded trim and shutters on the second floor. Each floor has a fluted corner pilaster.

The north side of the house has two windows on the first floor and one on the second floor, all with shutters.

The two-and-a-half story ell extends from the northern side of the rear of the house. At the southern corner of the rear there is one tall window on the first floor, and one window on the second floor, shuttered.

Rising from the flat center of the hip roof is a square cupola. It has a side lighted window in each face, defined by fluted pilasters. The corners of the cupola are beveled; each contains a recessed panel between two pilasters. The pilasters support a flat entablature and projecting molded cornice, surmounted by a balustrade identical to that over the first-floor colonnade.

5. Chimneys: The Tallman House has four tall brick chimneys, one near each corner of the house, set in the side wall. They are painted.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The facade entrance door is framed by fluted pilasters. The door and full length sidelights have molded trim with circle-motif corner blocks at each intersection. The single door is wooden with six molded recessed panels.
 - b. Windows: The windows on the first-floor facade, the southern side, and the rear of the house are triple-hung with six-light sashes. The center facade second-story window is also triple hung with six-light sashes. The sidelights are triple hung with two-light sashes. The remaining second-floor windows and northern side windows are double hung with six-light sashes. The center window in each cupola face is double hung with six-light sashes. The cupola sidelights are double hung with two-light sashes.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The hip roof of the house and gable roof of the ell are covered with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice: A wide, flat entablature with a projecting molding near the middle rings the entire house. It is identical to the entablature of the colonnade. Above the entablature is a projecting molded cornice, which forms the base for the roof balustrade.

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- c. Balustrade: The balustrade consists of flat wooden panels between square balusters with raised panels. It has a molded rail. It rings the house roof except for the segment where the ell roof joins.
8. Stairs: A flight of cut granite stairs leads up an embankment near the street to a granite walk across the front yard of the house. Granite stairs lead up to the colonnade floor.
9. Ell: The ell at the rear is about 25 feet wide and 35 feet long. Because of the presence of early Federal window and door moldings as well as the rear-door transom light, it is possible that this structure predates the main house and may survive from an earlier house on the premises.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: On the first floor a center hallway runs through the house from the facade entrance to the ell. To the south is a double parlor; in the northeast corner is a parlor; in the northwest corner is a dining room. On the second floor, bedrooms in each corner open onto a center hall.
2. Stairways: The main stairway rises from the northern wall of the entrance hall. It is straight at the bottom, then turns in a quarter circle at the top. There is a niche in the curved wall. The carved handrail, heavy turned newel post, and cylindrical balusters are all stained dark. The stairs and molded baseboards are painted.
- There is an enclosed spiral stairway from the second floor to the cupola. It is located to the rear of the main stairway on the northern side of the second-floor hall. The carved handrail and cylindrical balusters are stained dark, the stairs painted.
3. Flooring: Modern hardwood floors have been laid in most rooms.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. The ceilings are painted. Most of the walls are papered.
5. Doors: The painted wooden doors have one narrow, horizontal upper panel and one large lower molded raised panel.
6. Trim: Wood, painted. Most rooms have baseboards with wide moldings. The doors and windows have molded trim with

circle-motif corner blocks at the upper corners. The first-floor windows have hinged shutters of solid sections with raised panels. The arched doorway dividing the front and rear sections of the entrance hall has molded trim; the semi-circular fanlight molded trim springs from circle motif corner blocks. The elliptical arched opening between the two halves of the double parlor once contained a paneled wall which rose into the second floor wall to open the two parlors into one room. It has been removed. The opening has molded trim, again with the arch springing from circle motif corner blocks. The front parlor and the dining room are divided by a similar paneled wall which rises into the second floor wall, opening the two rooms into one. Here the elliptical arched opening is flanked by two semi-circular arches, all with molded trim. The molded paneling in the arches is similar to that of the doors with raised, molded arches above.

7. Fireplaces: The front parlor and the dining room have identical black marble fireplace mantels. Ionic pilasters support a wide entablature and a flat mantel which has a triangular back piece with modified anthemions at either side. The double parlor has two identical white marble fireplace mantels. Indented pilasters support a flat mantel. Below the mantel there is a rectangular panel with a raised interior panel. A cast-iron fire frame with raised panels and fluted pilasters, inserted in the southwest fireplace, remains intact.
8. Lighting: Electric. There are molded plaster recesses in some first-floor ceilings, left from hanging fixtures.

D. Site:

There is a separate one-and-a-half-story gable-roofed barn at the rear of the house.

Prepared by Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
and
Mary-Eliza Wengren
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during 1971 and 1972 in the course of a photo-data project in the cities of Bath, Hallowell, Monmouth, and Richmond in the State of Maine. The project was arranged in response to the initiative of Mrs. Linda B. Clark of Row House, Inc., in Hallowell,

Dr. Charles E. Burden of the Bath Marine Museum, Mrs. Paul L. Roberts of the Richmond Historical and Cultural Society, and Mr. H. Earle Flanders of Monmouth. All of these preservationists actively solicited or contributed funds and effectively fostered increased interest in the architectural heritage of their respective communities. The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, at that time Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey; was supervised in the field by Denys Peter Myers, then Principal Architectural Historian of HABS; was carried on by Student Architectural Historian Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Boston University; and was continued by Alan Mast, Maine Arts and Humanities Commission, and Mary-Eliza Wengren (Mrs. Richard E., Jr.), Maine Historic Preservation Commission, under the field supervision of Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Photographers were Mark C. Bisgrove, Sylvester Cobbs, Stanley Schwartz, Leon P. Shepard, and Richard Dwight Sturgis.